

UNCLASSIFIED 9/4/79

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 H-01 /022 W  
-----061082 060201Z /66

R 041805Z SEP 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2228

~~SECRET~~ BUENOS AIRES 7260

E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM AR  
SUBJ: STATUS OF PHILIPPE OSCAR FELDMAN

REF: STATE 220292

ARGENTINA PROJECT (5200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

~~Declassify~~ ( ) In Part (X) In Full **DECONTROL**

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

1. ON THE BASIS OF OUR PRESENT INFORMATION  
AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT THINK IT WISE TO MAKE FELDMAN'S  
CASE AN OBJECT OF OFFICIAL ENQUIRY BY THIS EMBASSY TO ANY  
PART OF THE GOA. FELDMAN'S DETENTION, OR SO REFTTEL  
SUGGESTS, IS THE RESULT OF CHARGES THAT HE ENGAGED IN FRAUD.  
FOR THE EMBASSY TO APPROACH GOA OFFICIALS ON THIS MATTER  
COULD BE MISINTERPRETED OR EVEN MANIPULATED HERE TO THE  
DETRIMENT OF OUR EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS CASES.

2. WE HAVE SOUGHT SOME WAY OF CONTACTING FELDMAN'S  
FAMILY OR HIS LAWYER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CASE BUT  
HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO. DAIA (THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL) HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT HIM. CAN THE  
DEPARTMENT CONTACT CONGRESSMAN GILMAN'S OFFICE TO OBTAIN  
MORE INFORMATION TO HELP US? THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT ALSO  
SUGGEST THE CONGRESSMAN CONTACT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY  
IN WASHINGTON TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION HE IS SEEKING.  
MASTRO

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Current Class: ~~SECRET~~

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

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BUENOS 07262 042001Z

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSD-00 H2-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAC-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 INC-01 SP-02 SS-15 /059 W

-----050940 042008Z /75

O 041828Z SEP 79  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2230

BUENOS AIRES 7262

E.O. 12065: XDS-1 9/4/09 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M  
TAGS: SHUM PINT AR  
SUBJ: GENERAL VIOLA ON HUMAN RIGHTS, CENTRAL AMERICA ETC.

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. AMBASSADOR SAW ARMY COMMANDER VIOLA LATE AFTERNOON  
SEPTEMBER 3 AND TOUCHED ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

3. DISAPPEARANCES. THE AMBASSADOR GAVE VIOLA THE EMBASSY'S LIST  
OF 10 PEOPLE REPORTED DISAPPEARED DURING AUGUST WITH THE COMMENT  
THAT DISAPPEARANCES ARE AGAIN A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN. HE  
ALSO SAID THAT SHORTLY HE WOULD LEAVE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN  
WASHINGTON, AND THAT RECENT DISAPPEARANCES WERE SURE TO COME  
UP AND QUESTIONS ASKED WHETHER ARGENTINA MIGHT BE SLIPPING  
BACKWARDS. VIOLA SAID HE SHARED OUR CONCERN, AND THAT TEN  
PEOPLE WERE TOO MANY TO BELIEVE THAT SOME "WILD GROUP" MIGHT HAVE  
BROUGHT OFF THE DISAPPEARANCES. HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO  
TELEPHONE ON FRIDAY, AFTER RETURNING FROM A TRIP TO THE NORTH  
AND BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE UNITED STATES, WHEN HE HOPED HE  
WOULD HAVE SOME NEWS FOR HIM ON THE TEN. (U.S. VIOLA WAS  
AWAY ALL OF LAST WEEK. TWO DISAPPEARANCES HAD ALREADY BEEN  
DISCUSSED WITH HIM -- THOSE OF ANZORENA AND LEPISCOPO --  
BUT HE HAD NO COMMENT AT THAT TIME.)

4. TIMERMAN AND THE ELIE WIESEL VISIT. THE AMBASSADOR  
SAID THAT HE WAS STILL "WORKING ON THE TIMERMAN CASE WITH  
VIOLA'S COLLEAGUES -- MEANING, OF COURSE, WITH GENERAL  
SUAREZ MASON. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS FRUSTRATING TO HAVE  
A MAN OF ELIE WIESEL'S STATURE IN TCWII AND TO BE TURNED  
DOWN BY THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR (BUENOS AIRES 7226) ON  
OUR REQUEST THAT WIESEL BE ALLOWED TO VISIT JACOBO TIMERMAN.  
THE AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT, IN FAIRNESS TO MINIST HARGUINDEGUY  
HE HAD NOT ADDED TO HIS REQUEST THAT WIESEL WAS AN OFFICIAL  
POSITION WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF  
A PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE. HE SAID THAT, ONCE AGAIN, THE  
TIMERMAN CASE HAD BEEN ALLOWED IN THE WAY " ARGENTINA'S  
BEING BETTER UNDERSTOOD BY PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.  
VIOLA BECAME IRRITATED AND DECIDED TO OVERRULE THE  
INTERIOR MINISTRY -- ADDING THAT IT WAS HE, AFTER ALL,  
WHO SHOULD HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH DECISIONS.  
(AS THIS CABLE IS PREPARED WE ARE WAITING OUT A DEFINITE TIME  
TO BE GIVEN BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY FOR WIESEL TO MAKE HIS  
CALL ON TIMERMAN. NOTE: ARMY SECRETARY GENERAL BIGNONE  
TOLD THE AMBASSADOR SEPARATELY THERE HAD BEEN FEAR THAT  
WIESEL WAS WORKING ON A BOOK ABOUT TIMERMAN, ONE THAT  
WOULD GIVE A WORSE BLACK EYE TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.)

5. CENTRAL AMERICA. VIOLA WAS INTENSELY INTERESTED IN  
THE AMBASSADOR'S READING ON EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS AND  
NICARAGUA -- ESPECIALLY SALVADOR, WHERE THE AMBASSADOR  
HAD EARLIER EXPERIENCE. AT ONE POINT VIOLA WONDERED  
ALLOWED RECALLING EVENTS IN NICARAGUA, WHETHER "SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN HERE." THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED  
THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS STAYING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE  
CENTRAL AMERICAN SITUATION AND STUDYING EVENTS CAREFULLY  
-- EVE THAT CONTRASTS WERE STRONG BETWEEN THE SITUATION OF  
ARGENTINA, WITH A STRONG MIDDLE CLASS, AND THAT OF EL SALVADOR.

WHERE A SMALL GROUP OF RICH PEOPLE EXISTS ALONGSIDE GREAT  
POVERTY. THE AMBASSADOR CONFIDED HOWEVER THAT WITH INFLATION  
IN ARGENTINA RUNNING AT 170 PERCENT THERE CLEARLY WERE POLITICAL  
PROBLEMS AND UNREST. HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE  
REASON FOR OPTIMISM, GIVEN HEAVY PUBLIC SPENDING AND  
PRINTING PRESS MONEY SUPPLY. VIOLA AGREED -- "WE'LL HAVE  
TO CONTROL THAT."

6. THE SUCCESSION. REFERRING TO A SPEECH VIOLA MADE IN  
WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THAT "IN PRINCIPLE" HE WOULD RETIRE  
BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHO IT  
APPEARED NOW WOULD SUCCEED HIM. VIOLA CLAMMED UP AND DID  
NOT RESPOND.

7. THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. VIOLA  
WAS INTERESTED IN HEARING HOW THE AMBASSADOR THOUGHT THE  
COMMISSION WOULD ACCOMPLISH ITS WORK AND WHAT KIND OF  
REPORT IT WOULD ISSUE. THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN PUT DISTANCE  
BETWEEN THE IACHR AND THE USG, RESPONDING ONLY THAT  
COMMISSION MEMBERS WERE EXPERIENCED, INDEPENDENT PEOPLE  
WHO KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING.  
CASTRO

*Argentina*

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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Exemption(s):

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